

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Multi-Purpose Dog Handler Packages (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 24-0018
INITIATED BY:	Finance Department

It is requested that Council rescind Resolution No. 371-24 for the annual contract to provide Multi-Purpose Dog Handler Packages awarded to Custom Canine Unlimited (Gainesville, GA), and approve the execution of an annual contract with Von Der King Kennels and Training (Jasper, GA) to provide Multi-Purpose Dog Handler Packages.

After a contract with Custom Canine Unlimited was executed, per Resolution No. 371-24, staff from the Columbus Police Department K9 Unit met with the vendor to make an initial purchase of dog handler packages. However, the parties were unable to reach an agreement and it was requested that the information from the second-highest scoring vendor, Von Der King Kennels and Training, be provided. After the K9 Unit staff met with Von Der King Kennels and Training, the Police Department submitted a request to cancel the award to Custom Canine Unlimited and award the contract to Von Der King Kennels and Training.

The Evaluation Committee for this RFP consisted of three voting members from Columbus Police Department, one voting member from Columbus Fire and EMS, and one voting member from Public Works, an Alternate Voter from the Department of Homeland Security and an Advisor from Columbus Police Department. On February 7, 2024, the Evaluation Committee was polled. The Committee unanimously agreed to cancel the contract with Custom Canine Unlimited and award this contract to Von Der King Kennels and Training, the second highest ranked vendor.

The awarded vendor will provide quality and healthy canines, handler training, equipment, vehicle upfitting and full support for the Police Department. The trained canines and handlers will provide added Public Safety in apprehension, drug detection and tracking. An initial purchase of two packages is anticipated. Additional packages will be purchased on an “as needed” basis.

The contract term shall be for one (1) year with the option to renew for four (4) additional twelve-month periods. The contract renewals shall be contingent upon the mutual agreement of the City and the Contractors.

RFP Advertisement and Receipt of Proposals:

RFP specifications were posted on the web pages of the Purchasing Division, the Georgia Procurement Registry and DemandStar on January 8, 2024. This RFP has been advertised, opened and evaluated. Three (3) proposals were received by the due date of February 16, 2024, from the following vendors:

Von Der King Kennels and Training (Jasper, GA)
Custom Canine Unlimited (Gainesville, GA)
Alabama Canine Law Enforcement Officer's Training Center (Northport, AL)

Award Recommendation:

• **Von Der King Kennels and Training**

- The owner is an active member of law enforcement in the State of Georgia.
- The vendor has trained K9's at local, State and Federal levels.
- The vendor's work history is extensive with law enforcement agencies in Georgia.
- Qualifications/Experience:
 - Von Der King Kennels and Training has been in business since 2010.
 - Von Der King Staff has been training dogs since 2005, handling a Narcotics Detection K9 and two Explosives Detection K9s.
 - Von Der King Kennels has worked with Federal agencies that include: ATF, TSA, Department of Defense, in addition to numerous law enforcement agencies and private security firms.
- Below are recent clients for which the contractor has performed similar services, at the time the contractor submitted a proposal:
 - Smyrna Police Department Fall, 2023
Smyrna, GA
Multi-purpose K9 with Handler Academy.
 - Cherokee County Sheriff Office Summer, 2023
Canton, GA
Two (2) Multi-purpose K9 with Handler Academy.

The City's Procurement Ordinance Article 3-110 (Competitive Sealed Proposals for the procurement of Equipment, Supplies and Professional Services) governs the RFP Process. During the RFP process, there is no formal opening due to the possibility of negotiated components of the proposal. In the event City Council does not approve the recommended offeror, no proposal responses or any negotiated components are made public until after the award of the contract. Therefore, the evaluation results and cost information have been submitted to the City Manager in a separate memo for informational purposes.

Funding for the various components of the initial purchase are available in the FY25: Multi-Government Project Fund – Finance – 23 EMB Justice Assistance Grant – Various; 0216 – 200 – 4128 - 6728, 6601, 6699, 6339, 7761.

Funding for additional packages will be budgeted in the appropriate fiscal year: VICE/Special Operations Forfeiture Fund – Police – Intelligence/Vice – Operating Materials; 0225-400-2100-VICE-6728.

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TO RESCIND RESOLUTION NO. 371-24 FOR THE ANNUAL CONTRACT TO PROVIDE MULTI-PURPOSE DOG HANDLER PACKAGES AWARDED TO CUSTOM CANINE UNLIMITED (GAINESVILLE, GA), AND APPROVE THE EXECUTION OF AN ANNUAL CONTRACT WITH VON DER KING KENNELS AND TRAINING (JASPER, GA) TO PROVIDE MULTI-PURPOSE DOG HANDLER PACKAGES WITH.

WHEREAS, an RFP was administered (RFP No. 24-0018) and three proposals were received; and,

WHEREAS, after a contract with Custom Canine Unlimited was executed, per Resolution No. 371-24, staff from the Columbus Police Department K9 Unit met with the vendor to make an initial purchase of dog handler packages. However, the parties were unable to reach an agreement, and it was requested that the information from the second-highest scoring vendor be provided. After the K9 Unit staff met with Von Der King Kennels and Training, the Police Department submitted a request to cancel the award to Custom Canine Unlimited and award the contract to Von Der King Kennels and Training; and,

WHEREAS, the Evaluation Committee for this RFP consisted of three voting members from Columbus Police Department, one voting member from Columbus Fire and EMS, and one voting member from Public Works, an Alternate Voter from the Department of Homeland Security and an Advisor from Columbus Police Department. On February 7, 2024, the Evaluation Committee was polled. The Committee unanimously agreed to cancel the contract with Custom Canine Unlimited and award this contract to Von Der King Kennels and Training, the second highest ranked vendor; and,

WHEREAS, the proposal submitted by Von Der King Kennels and Training met all proposal requirements and was evaluated responsive to the RFP; and,

WHEREAS, the initial term of the contract shall be for one (1) year with the option to renew for four (4) additional twelve-month periods. Contract renewals will be contingent upon the mutual agreement of the City and the Contractor.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

I.

That Resolution No. 371-24 is hereby rescinded; and,

II.

That the City Manager and/or his designee is hereby authorized to execute an annual contract with Von Der King Kennels and Training (Jasper, GA) to provide multi-purpose dog handler packages. Funding for the various components of the initial purchase are available in the FY25: Multi-Government Project Fund – Finance – 23 EMB Justice Assistance Grant – Various; 0216 – 200 – 4128 - 6728, 6601, 6699, 6339, 7761.

Funding for additional packages will be budgeted in the appropriate fiscal year: VICE/Special Operations Forfeiture Fund – Police – Intelligence/Vice – Operating Materials; 0225-400-2100-VICE-6728.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the ____ day of _____, 2025 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen	voting _____
Councilor Chambers	voting _____
Councilor Cogle	voting _____
Councilor Crabb	voting _____
Councilor Davis	voting _____
Councilor Garrett	voting _____
Councilor Hickey	voting _____
Councilor Huff	voting _____
Councilor Thomas	voting _____
Councilor Tucker	voting _____

Lindsey G. McLemore, Deputy Clerk of Council

B.H. “Skip” Henderson III, Mayor